

# February Distance Learning Newsletter

*Submitted by Christy Hubley & Betti Percival*

The month of February seemed to be a short month between the vacation week, a snow day and an early release day however we managed to offer quite a few programs along with completing test calls for this month and test calls in preparation for programs that are being offered in March.

## **Videoconferences Programs offered by Content Providers:**

### **Atkinson Academy:**

- ✚ There were **five** classes that participated in their first videoconference to the Ann Arbor Museum for a program titled, Critters in the Cold during the month of February. The classes were Debbie Bell's first grade class, Nadine MacDougall's first grade class, Carla Wilson's first grade class, Jen Toth's and Pam DuLong's Multiage 1/2 classes. The students learned how animals survive and thrive when it's cold outside. They did an experiment with insulation and they took a virtual field trip with their Penguin that they made, to Antarctica to act out the life story of an Emperor Penguin.
- ✚ Erin Camire's morning and afternoon kindergarten classes participated in their first videoconference with the St. Louis Zoo located in St. Louis, MO where they met penguins and puffins and participated in activities to learn how these animals survive in their cold climates.

### **Sandown North:**

- ✚ Kathy Low's class and Kim Busiek's class participated in a videoconference with the St. Louis Zoo for a program titled, "Zoo Clues". Students solved puzzles to learn more about big cats, birds, and other animals. They also learned about the clues that the veterinarians use to keep the animals healthy.

### **Sandown Central:**

- ✚ Jan Gilman's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class participated in a videoconference with the International Wolf Center in Ely, MN for a program titled, "Wolf Tales". Who's afraid of the "big, bad wolf"? Through this interactive program, students explored the influential role that literature plays forming views and attitudes towards wildlife. The students compared and contrast two folk stories in which the wolf is a main character, then compared literary portrayals of wolves with the real thing.

### **Danville:**

- ✚ Marcia Quigley's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class connected with the Cleveland Zoo for their second Segment of the program titled, "Operation Africa" which focused on careers in animal care and veterinary science.

### **TRMS:**

- ✚ Lisa Paladino's class connected with NASA, the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas for a program titled, "Mission to Mars". During the video conference, students interacted with a NASA Education Specialist and took a journey to the Red Planet to discover what it takes to land robotic missions on the uninhabitable terrain of the Martian

soil being aware of intense dust storms, huge craters, enormous canyons and staggering volcanoes. Imagine trying to slow down delicate instrumentation from 12,000mph to 0 in a window of six minutes and, at the same time, to find a safe place to land. Think it can't be done? NASA has achieved these remarkable tasks with Spirit and Opportunity.

### ***Videoconference collaborations:***

#### **Sandown North:**

- ✚ Cathy Daenz's kindergarten class collaborated with their kindergarten partner school in Dallas Texas. The students at each school had a 100 number grid and crayons and when numbers were called off, the students colored in the appropriate number, which eventually made up the number 100. An activity for 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. This was an interactive session between the two classes.

#### **Danville:**

- ✚ Lisa Furman's kindergarten class collaborated with their kindergarten partner school in Dallas Texas. This was another interactive session between the two classes that focused on literacy and Read across America. The session began with asking the students in both locations which book they liked best. The Cat in the Hat or The Cat in the Hat Comes Back. The teacher put a graph on the document camera and each class took a vote and put the results onto the graph. The students created a craft together, by using the document camera, to show the students at Danville and the Texas children how to make a Dr Seuss "Cat in the Hat" hats. As the children were finishing their hats and proudly displaying them, they got a surprised visit from the Cat in the Hat". The Cat conversed with both classes, then they all sang a song titled, "Read, Read, Read" with the cat. The Cat passed out "Read across America" pencils to the Danville students and sent a package containing Cat in the Hat bookmarks and pencils to the students in Texas. This was truly an interactive session between the two classes.

#### **Distance Learning Programs cancelled due to a snow day and an early release day.**

- ✚ A program titled. "Before You Could Say Jackie Robinson" that was scheduled for Cathy Riley's class at Sandown Central has been rescheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ A Distance Learning workshop for the Health/Tech staff was scheduled on 2/22, however due to an early release day this workshop was rescheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Christy and Betti were scheduled to present at the 2008 Distance Learning & Telemedicine Conference sponsored by SERESC on 2/13, however that was postponed until May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

If you have any requests or ideas for programs that will enhance your curriculum or would like to participate in collaboration with another school, please e-mail us and we will be happy to find a program or collaboration for you.

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